

Application. No. 09/912,134

### REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 23 February 2005. Claims 1-8 are pending in the application; Claims 1 and 5-8 have been rejected, and Claims 2-4 have been objected to.

By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended; Claims 2 and 8 have been cancelled; and new Claims 9-10 have been added.

No new matter has been added.

In view of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination.

#### About The Invention

The present invention relates generally to methods and apparatus for CAN communication systems that detect ground level shift on the communication line through storing a data element indicative of the ground level shift.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base Claim, but the Examiner has indicated that these would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

#### Non-narrowing Amendment to Claim 3

Claim 3 has been amended to depend directly from Claim 1. Previously, Claim 3 depended from Claim 2. By this amendment Claim 2 has been cancelled and its limitations incorporated into amended Claim 1. No change in the scope of Claim 3 is intended.

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Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1 and 5-8 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reeb, et al., (US Patent 6,600,723).

Claim 8 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

As noted above, Claim 2 has been indicated to be allowable. Independent Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the limitations recited by Claim 2, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that rejection of independent Claims 1 and 6, along with the rejection of dependent Claims 5 and 7 have been overcome.

New Claims 9-10

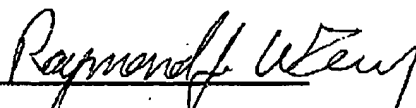
New Claims 9-10 are directed to a method of operating a CAN communication line. New Claims 9-10 are more specifically directed to the operation of the circuitry used to detect ground level shift during the operation of the CAN communication lines. Support for these Claims can be found in the specification at pages 3-4, and in Fig. 2.

Conclusion

All of the objections and rejections in the outstanding Office Action of 23 February 2005 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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